colour, in the bed, (perhaps a couple of gallons,) but not the slightest appearance of blood. I divided the cord in the usual manner, and was about to proceed to reach the legs of the child, for the purpose of completing the delivery, when a powerful pain came on. The cord, of which a considerable portion remained attached to the body of the child, and was lying in the bed without the vagina, was suddenly shortened; and on examining, I found the child completely turned—the vertex now presenting, and passing the brim. Two or three powerful pains succeeded, and the child was born without further interference. It appeared to be about an eight months' child; the abdomen was dropsical, and the cuticle somewhat decomposed. The uterus contracted firmly, and with the exception of feeling rather more than usually weak, she has not had a bad symptom, and she is, at the present time, performing her usual domestic duties.

New Basinghall-street, October, 1846.

EXPERIENCE IN A PRIVATE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

A CORRESPONDENT at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, who has authenticated his communication with his name and address, has forwarded to us a communication, in which a statement of facts relative to his personal experience of confinement in a lunatic asylum, is prefaced by some very correct and judicious remarks on private establishments for insane persons, instigated by the painful accounts relating to Haydock Lodge, which have appeared in print. He justly condemns such establishments as "markets trafficking in humanity in its worst condition, in most of which those prudent, judicious, and rational means which ought to be adopted for the recovery of the patients, are entirely and designedly neglected;" nay, he "fears that other means, more deadly and inexplicable, are resorted to in some of them for the purpose of confirming the complaint, and continuing them under alienation." He proceeds: "From my own experience, I judge that those institutions are not calculated to restore the patient labouring under mental affliction. Every intelligent person is aware that diseases of the mind are as various, and operate as differently, as the diseases of the body. Consequently, different modes of treatment should be adopted in different cases; but instead of this important and salutary caution being exercised, one uniform course is pursued towards all. I am, Sir," he says, "in humble circumstances of life, and not able to convey my sentiments with the clearness which better educated men might do; but my object in addressing you is good. I was myself confined in one of these places. About seventeen years ago, I was visited with an affliction of the mind arising from nervous affection and extreme bodily weakness. After six months' confinement I was restored. About twelve months ago I had another attack of the same complaint, and was only two days ill; but after my wife had consulted a surgeon, he, without using any means for my recovery, at once signed a certificate for me to be sent to an asylum. But Nature has again rallied, and I am now in the bosom of my family. To detail all that I could say with reference to that asylum would be too long and tedious for a communication of this kind, but I am ready and anxious to give any information on the subject that may be required. When I was taken into the asylum I was extremely ill, and, being a little talkative, I was handled very roughly. No attention was paid to my bodily weakness. I was every now and then put into a dark cell, but before that was effected the keepers had to try their strength, and appeared much gratified that they could master me; and in that way I was knocked about for five weeks before being allowed to see any of my friends, who had repeatedly applied to visit me, but were refused. Good reasons there were for the refusal; for my face had been cut, and my eyes were swollen up and thoroughly blackened. I had undergone the most excruciating suffering. This was not the sort of treatment my case required. It was medical treatment that I wanted, but that was never thought of. If judicious means had been taken by my surgeon, there would have been no necessity for consigning me to a place of this kind for my recovery. The most effectual cure for my case occurred by accident: I was struck at very violently, and hit over the nose, when the profusion of blood that flowed gave me extraordinary relief. This clearly shows that if I had been properly dealt with my complaint would soon have been removed.

"With reference to the conduct of the visiting magistrates it is not my wish to speak in the slightest degree disrespect-

fully, but I think that they err in placing too much confidence in the integrity of those who have the management of these places.

"I will give you an illustration of the benefit that the patients may expect from their visitations. Of course, everything is *made ready* against the day appointed for their coming. They visited once during each time of my confinements. They came into the ward, or room, where I was, (a sort of second-class place, at the charge of £1 ls. per week each patient,) accompanied by the house-surgeon and two keepers. There were twelve patients in the room. The visitors passed through without speaking a word, or making an attempt to ascertain whether any of the patients were in a fit state to have their liberty. And in this way they would go through the whole asylum. Now, Sir, this is the sort of vigilance that the magistrates of Newcastle exercise over these places. No wonder that selfish "respectable" men act as they think proper towards their charges. To one case I particularly call your attention; it is that of a person named Robert —, who has been confined for four years; and who, by industry and carefulness, has realized a very handsome income, amounting to about 300*l.* a year, but who I take upon myself to affirm is in perfect health, a man of great intelligence and activity of mind, married to a second wife, having two sons by his former wife. But every person related to him appears to be indifferent to the situation of the man, though some of them have his money to live upon, the patient seeming to me to be, under the present system, under certain confinement for life—a horrible case! This unhappy man has made several applications to the magistrates, and other persons, to get him out, but some peculiar influence is too much for them all. Are the parties in power afraid to let him out, lest he should bring facts before the public that would ruin the establishment? I will state a few circumstances, which deserve particular notice. On the evening previous to my leaving the asylum, I was sent for into the doctor's private room, and there I found him and the house-surgeon sitting together. They requested me to take a chair, when Dr. — said, 'Now, Mr. —, you are quite well, and ready to go out.' The surgeon then said, Mr. —, we wish to know what you and Mr. — (the person to whom I allude) have been talking so much about in the garden, to-day. Has he not been requesting you to use means, when you go out, to get him out of the asylum? Can you tell us two or three things that he requested you to do?' Perceiving their object, I avoided answering. So they said, 'Do you think — well, and fit to go out?' I waived the question, and said, that he was anxious to see his sons. They said, 'You are not to interfere in his case; you have nothing to do with what he has been instructing you in.' They then both talked a great deal about his still being unfit to go out, and strongly urged me not to say one word about him; but I made them no promises. Of course Mr. — had been, during the day, in the garden, very fervently impressing upon my mind the wretchedness of his condition, and the hopelessness of his ever obtaining his liberty; and I assured him that I would do all that I could to get him out. He said, 'It is my little property that has been the cause of all my present misery.' I comforted him by telling him that I would use every means to bring his case before proper persons, which I did, as soon as I came out, but found my efforts availed nothing. I applied to one visiting magistrate, who treated me with great contempt for 'interfering in a case which Dr. — considered a bad one,' saying that Dr. — was fully competent to manage his own affairs, and that it was out of my province to meddle with matters of that kind. But I feel satisfied that Mr. — is a fit person to have his liberty, and I entreat, you, Sir, to use your great power and influence in behalf of this cruelly oppressed individual."

EFFICIENCY OF SCOTCH SURGEONS TO PRACTISE MEDICINE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following extract from a letter, signed "Edw. South Hall," in the LANCET of the 19th Sept., requires some notice, and I therefore request the favour of your publishing this communication:—

"The person alluded to, whose name is William Armstrong, is a member of the Edinburgh College of Surgeons, and nothing more, he having served his time with a druggist, and afterwards matriculated in Scotland. The Apothecaries' Company have cautioned him against practising in England and Wales some time since."

Is Mr. Hall aware that the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh occupies the position of examining body of the general practitioners of Scotland? Has he ever heard it mooted that these gentlemen are in any way deficient in any attainments requisite for the adequate discharge of the duties devolving upon them? Has he ever taken the trouble of inquiring what is the course of study required by that college from its members? Let him peruse the curriculum of study prescribed to them, and he will be convinced, I think, that care has been taken to secure a competency of knowledge by them in medicine, surgery, midwifery, and pharmacy. Does Mr. Hall know that the army, navy, and East India authorities, allow the diploma of the Edinburgh College of Surgeons to rank, as a qualification in the respective services, on equal terms with that of the London or Dublin College?

Surely, had Mr. Hall deliberated a little before writing his letter, he would not have talked of any gentleman holding an Edinburgh diploma with disparagement.

It is gratifying to find the poor-law commissioners acting in an enlightened and liberal spirit by confirming the appointment of a gentleman *professionally*, though perhaps not *legally*, qualified. Certainly the public safety requires protection only against uneducated persons, and so long as the poor-law guardians and commissioners secure that, let us hope that no professional jealousy, no lingering love of monopoly, will induce any members of the profession to oppose the extension of free trade, throughout the several divisions of the United Kingdom, to one legally qualified in any one division of it. Let the profession, however, unite most strenuously to displace *all uneducated persons*—all who can fairly be styled, in spirit as well as in the letter, illegal and unqualified practitioners.

I ask you, Sir, I ask the profession generally, is it not lamentable to find the Apothecaries' Company warning a member of the Edinburgh College of Surgeons from practising in England and Wales, on mere legal technicalities, while they allow the land to swarm with ignorant, life-destroying quacks? Do you not discover herein one cause at least for medical-reform legislation? In conclusion, let me remark that I am wholly unacquainted either with Mr. Armstrong or Mr. Hall, and I have simply noticed the attack on the former, as one aimed at the collegiate body of which he is a member, and will only further add, that many of his co-members, and "nothing more," are eminent and distinguished surgeons in public and private life, both at home and abroad, through our extensive colonies and dependencies.—I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Bath, Sept. 1846.

P. BALLANTINE FERGUSON, M.D.

NAVAL MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

PROMOTIONS.—Surg. H. H. Jones.—Assist.-surg. F. M'Are.

APPOINTMENTS.—Surgs.: J. Findlay (1846), to *Ferret*; G. T. M. Martin (1842), to *Wanderer*; C. T. S. Kevern, to *Bittern*; A. Lane, M.D. (1831), to *Penelope*.—Assist.-surgs.: A. Clark (Act.) (1846), to Haslar Hospital; A. Mitchell, M.D. (1839), to *Devastation*; J. D. Macdonald (1841), to *Thetis*; W. P. Ward (Act.), to *Penelope*; C. Forbes, M.D. (1841), to *Æolus*; J. T. U. Bremner, M.D. (1844), to *Belvidera*; A. Coates (1827), to *Andromache*; F. B. Pritchard (1839), to *Belvidera*.—*Naval and Military Gazette*.

"UNITED SERVICE," LATE "NAVAL" MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—On Wednesday, Oct. 28th, a meeting of the members of this association was held, Mr. Drummond in the chair. The association had its origin in a meeting of the medical officers of the navy, held at Bermuda in Dec. 1845. At that meeting the following resolutions were passed—viz.:

"That it is considered expedient that an association should be formed, to be called the Naval Medical Association. That the first object to be taken into consideration in this association is the advantage that would accrue to the corps by their having an opportunity, through original essays or otherwise, of diffusing the useful knowledge on medical subjects &c. which their position gives them such facilities of acquiring. That a medical library and reading-room be established, furnished with the medical periodicals, &c., and that a medical officer, on permanent half-pay, be appointed to perform the office of librarian and secretary. That a central council be formed, to consist of not less than five members, to meet in London for the transaction of the business of the society. That the annual subscription be 1*l*., or for life, 10*l*.. That as soon as there should be one hundred members, those who are in London are requested to call a meeting, for the purpose of electing the council. That a treasurer be appointed to re-

ceive the subscriptions of the different officers who are disposed to become members of this association. That the proceedings of this meeting be laid before Sir W. Burnett, Director-General of the Medical Department of the Navy, with a request that he will be pleased to give it his support."

The meeting on Wednesday was convened for the purpose of carrying out the plan then proposed. It was stated that the number of members now amounted to ninety, and that Sir W. Burnett had consented to become the patron of the association. The following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

"That the association should form a junction with the United Service Institution, and that a moiety of its subscription be appropriated to the funds of that institution. That the medical officers of the army, and the East India Company's service, be invited to join the association. That the name of the society be altered to that of the 'United Service Medical Association,' and that a committee be appointed to conduct its operations."

THE NAVAL MEDICAL SUPPLEMENTAL FUND.—On Thursday, (Oct. 29th,) a meeting of the members of the Royal Naval Medical Supplemental Fund was held at Somerset House, Dr. Evans in the chair, to elect a secretary in the room of the late Mr. Crandell. Several medical officers and civilians put in their applications to be elected, but, it having been discovered that the election of a secretary is vested in the secretary of the Admiralty and the directors of the Fund, the meeting was adjourned to give Mr. Ward notice of the fact, and to ascertain his pleasure as to the day of future meeting. —*Naval and Military Gazette*, Oct. 31st.

EAST INDIA MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

BENGAL AND AGRA PRESIDENCY.—Veter.-surg. J. Bicknell is on sick leave at Simla.—Surg. D. M'Nab, M.D., is on leave on private affairs at Ghazee-pore.—Assist.-surg. J. H. Butler confirmed in appointment of garrison assist.-surg. at Delhi.—The leave of absence granted to assist.-surg. J. M'Pherson, M.D., has, at his own request, been cancelled.—Surgs.: J. Stokes, M.D., reposted to 9th N.I.; J. Duncan, M.D., rem. to 10th N.I.; H. J. Thornton posted to 5th N.I. T. C. Elliott rem. to 11th light cav. at Loodianah.—Assist.-surgs.: J. T. C. Ross appointed to 2nd Eur. reg. at Subathoo; J. Allan to join 4th N.I. at Delhi; D. M'Rae to visit Nynsee Tal on med. cert. till Feb.; J. T. C. Ross on leave at Simla; J. C. Watson, M.D., and N. S. Smith, passed vernac. exam.; J. F. Beatson, M.D., is at Simla on med. cert.—Surgs.: A. A. M'Anally has leave from Dec. till March to proceed to presidency preparatory to applying for furl. to Europe; J. M'Rae rem. from artill. to 8th light cav. in the Jullundur Doab.—Assist.-surg. J. C. Graham, M.D., app. to 49th N.I. at Benares.—Surg. A. C. Duncan, M.D., rem. to 5th battalion of artillery.

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.—Assist.-surgs.: J. Welsh, M.D., to do duty with superin. surg. Malabar and Canara; J. M'Gregor, M.D., posted to ceded districts; J. Brett, M.D., to 4th batt. artill.; W. Gilchrist to be surg. v. Scheniman, dec.; J. Mackintosh posted to 2nd batt. of artillery, and to remain in charge at Penang.—Surg. G. V. Cumming, M.D., remains at the Neilgherries on sick certificate till Jan. next.—Assist.-surgs. J. B. Fleming and D. Mackenzie admitted to service, and doing duty at the presidency.—Surg. G. W. Scheniman deceased at camp Nagricul on 7th August.

August 19th.—A letter from Bangalore states, that it has been lately so cold at that station, "that we really enjoyed sitting by a cheerful fire in the daytime: the sun scarcely showed himself once from behind the canopy of clouds." Notwithstanding the unusual quantity of rain, which is supposed to be inimical to health at this season, there is but little sickness in Madras; a good deal is, however, stated to prevail amongst Europeans at Cananore. Jaulnah was by the latest advices healthy; but cholera has prevailed there severely this last season, as many as forty deaths sometimes occurring daily.

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.—Surg. R. Gray to be civil surg. at Poona.—Assist.-surgs.: F. Broughton to be an assist. mag. of Kandeish; J. McA. Hyslop, M.D., has passed vernac. exam.; J. C. Trestrail, attached to 11th N.I., v. Braikenridge, dec.; —Lord, M.D., is with the 26th N.I. at Ahmedabad.—Veter.-surg. T. M'Dowell posted to horse brigade.—Assist.-surgs.: A. R. Fraser is attached to her Majesty's 19th Hussars; W. Davey, attached to 2nd Eur. regt. light infantry at Belgaum, v. Mosgrove; C. J. Imlach is on duty at Sukkur; E. J. Wallace dec. at Bhooj on 29th ult.—Surg. W. Leggett allowed a furlough to Europe for three years.—Assist.-surgs.: G. B. Nuttall has